

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed June 15, 2011. Claims 25 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The subject matter of claims 25 and 29 has been incorporated into claims 19 and 28, respectively. Amendments have been made to claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 19, 21, and 28. A correction also has been made to the specification to increase consistency with the drawings. Support for these changes can be found throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added.

Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-18.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 25 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claims 25 and 29 has been incorporated into base claims 19 and 28, respectively. Accordingly, claims 19 and 28 are now allowable.

Claim Rejections - § 102

Claims 19-24, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,602,723 to Takahashi et al (hereinafter "Takahashi"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The subject matter of allowable claim 25 has been incorporated into claim 19. Accordingly, amended claim 19 is allowable over Takahashi.

For at least these reasons, Takahashi does not anticipate claim 19. Claims 20-24, 26, and 27 depend from claim 19 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Applicant does not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserves the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German reference no. DE 10236361 (hereinafter “the ‘361 reference”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The subject matter of allowable claim 29 has been incorporated into claim 28. Accordingly, amended claim 28 is allowable over the ‘361 reference.

For at least these reasons, the ‘361 reference does not anticipate claim 28. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Applicant does not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserves the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P. C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: August 22, 2011

By Julie K. Skoge
Julie K. Skoge
Reg. No. 63,431
JKS:rlk

